

Gold River, CA - As 2009 comes to a close Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA) is very concerned that some provisions in the USA PATRIOT Act could lapse - even as terror incidents continue in the U.S. and around the world. Lungren issued the following statement:

"Heightened terrorist activity in recent days and months - from the attempted bombing of a U.S. airliner on Christmas Day to the shootings at Fort Hood to the murder of a Saudi Arabian border guard by Yemeni insurgents - reveal that our need for robust intelligence gathering tools has not diminished since 9/11. The USA PATRIOT Act has provided those agencies charged with protecting the security of the American people with the authority to combat terrorist activity both at home and abroad. Several key provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act were set to expire on December 31, 2009. These have been extended for a few short months - but without decisive action by Congress, our ability to protect the American people will be severely diminished.

"Last month, the House Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, held a single hearing to mark up a bill to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act. This bill, introduced by the majority party, would unnecessarily weaken America's counter-terrorism laws and impair our intelligence-gathering capabilities. At a time when terrorist activity around the globe is increasing, we cannot afford to compromise the collection of critical foreign intelligence and thus risk empowering radical jihadists."

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Congressman Dan Lungren serves as Ranking Member on the House Administration Committee in addition to serving on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees